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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, whose compassion never fails, from Your vantage point of eternity, look afresh into our time. Teach us to love as You love and to touch hurting lives as You do. Remove from us besetting fears about what tomorrow holds as You remind us that our times are in Your hands.

Today, inspire our Senators to honor You. Empower them to treat one another as they themselves desire to be treated and to pray for one another. Calm their anxieties and strengthen their faith in the ultimate triumph of Your purposes. Let Your unfailing love energize them to new levels of excellence and service.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 6, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in reading this morning's paper, I was reminded of the times I would read Dr. Seuss to my boys and my girl. In today's New York Times, Tom Friedman quotes Dr. Seuss as follows:

Then he shut the Things
in the box with the hook.
And the cat went away
with a sad kind of look.
"That is good," said the fish.
"He has gone away. Yes.
but your mother will come.
She will find this big mess!
And this mess is so big
And so deep and so tall,
we can not pick it up.
There is no way at all!"

Mr. President, some would say that is what we have in the Senate today—a big mess. But if you go back and read Dr. Seuss, the cat manages to clean up the mess. And as big of a mess as we have with immigration in the United States, we have the opportunity to clean up a big mess. If we work on a bipartisan basis in the next couple of days, we can clean up this mess. If we cannot, then we are back with the cat who didn't clean up the mess and the Senate didn't clean up its mess with immigration.

We have known for 3 months the time set for doing immigration. People worked in good faith trying to come up with legislation, and they were a week

short. They said: We need more time. So they got more time. They came up with a bipartisan bill. Ten Senators, Democrats and Republicans, came up with an immigration bill. Is it a perfect bill? Of course, not. Is it a good bill? It is not bad at all. It does some things that I think are extremely important, something I have talked about for a long time based on my experience in Smith Valley, NV, with a girl who couldn't go to college. She was Hispanic. Her parents were here illegally, and this young girl couldn't go to college even though she was the best student in her class. So we have in this bill the DREAM Act. It is a dream for many young Americans.

AgJOBS. We have been talking about an AgJOBS bill for years. This bill has one in it.

Border security. We have talked about the need for border security. This bill provides border security.

Employer enforcement, employer sanctions. This legislation has good employer sanction language. Good enough? Well, we will have to see. Some want to improve it. Maybe that is the way to do things.

Pathway to legalization. For millions of people here illegally with improper papers, a path to legalization is a way to bring them out of the shadows. That is in this legislation.

This year's legislation builds on the bill passed by the Senate last year after extensive committee considerations and many floor amendments. This year, there were lengthy bipartisan negotiations involving about 10 Senators and a number of Cabinet officers, in addition to other people from the White House. The negotiators asked for additional time. We talked about that. It was agreed upon.

We started the floor debate the week before Memorial Day recess. During that week, we disposed of more than a dozen amendments and allowed an additional 14 amendments to become pending to the bill. Proponents of the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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